

**MHDS COMMISSION – Morning Business Meeting**  
**October 21, 2021**  
**9:30 am to 12:00 pm**  
**Zoom – DRAFT**

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**MHDS COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Betsy Akin	June Klein-Bacon
Sarah Berndt	Timothy Perkins
Diane Brecht	Jeff Sorensen
Rep. Dennis Bush	Maria Sorensen
Sen. Sarah Trone Garriott	Cory Turner
Janee Harvey	Richard Whitaker
Rep. Lindsay James	Russell Wood
Don Kass	Lorrie Young

**MHDS COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Teresa Daubitz	Shari O'Bannon
Sen. Jeff Edler	

**OTHER ATTENDEES:**

Marilyn Althoff	Bill Kallestad
Theresa Armstrong	Todd Lange
Kris Bell	Laura Larkin
Emily Berry	Adrienne LaToure
David Boim	Bob Lincoln
Teresa Bomhoff	Tracy Liptak
Elis Bondarowicz	Stacie Maass
Jason Bridie	Susan Martin
Shane Buer	Leisa Mayer
Rachel Cecil	Christopher Olson
Liz Cox	Katie Peck
Tom Eachus	Libby Reekers
Marsha Edgington	Nicole Russell
Mike Fidgeon	Flora Schmidt
Emma Hall	Kim Scorza
John Hedgecoth	Felicia Toppert
Vienna Hoang	Francie Tuesher
Michael Jenkins	Kelly Wandishion
Kathy Johnson	Cherie White

**Materials Referenced:**

*September 16, 2021 MHDS Commission Meeting Minutes*  
*2021 State Resource Centers (SRC) Barrier Report*  
*SRC Map Area of Choice – Glenwood Only*  
*SRC Map Area of Choice – Woodward Only*  
*State Resource Center Referral Potential*  
*MHDS Commission 2021 Annual Report – WORKING DRAFT*

## **Welcome and Introductions**

Russell Wood called the meeting to order at 9:34 a.m. and led introductions. Quorum was established with twelve voting members attending virtually.

## **Review and Vote on Approval of September 16, 2021, Meeting Minutes**

Diane Brecht made a motion to approve the September 16, 2021, meeting minutes. Tim Perkins seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

## **State Resource Centers Barriers Report**

Marsha Edgington, Superintendent, Glenwood and Woodward Resource Center, presented the Annual Barriers Report for the State Resource Centers (SRCs). The report identifies reasons why individuals living in Iowa's two SRCs have not moved into the community. Marsha indicated the information was current through the end of 2020, and that she can provide more up-to-date information if needed. Marsha also reviewed the SRCs Map Area of Choice for both Glenwood and Woodward Resource Centers, respectively.

There was discussion regarding service capacity and whether it should be considered another barrier, per the information in the State Resource Center Referral Potential spreadsheet, which pulls numbers from the SRC maps indicating areas of choice. There was discussion regarding the DOJ report as well as the SRCs role in the continuum of care in Iowa, and what they might look like in the future.

## **Community Mental Health Block Grant (CMHBG) Plan**

Laura Larkin, Department of Human Services, introduced herself and provided an overview of the process for the CMHBG plan and the recent submission for FFY 2022-2023. Laura reviewed the set asides required for the CMHBG, which include 10 percent for Early Serious Mental Illness or First Episode Psychosis, 5 percent for crisis services, and 5 percent for administration. Laura indicated that there has been considerable coordination between DHS and IDPH with regards to the MHBG and the Substance Abuse Block Grant (SABG), which have some similarities. Information was gathered from each other's stakeholders with the goal of looking as one larger behavioral health system. The stakeholders provided input on the strengths, gaps and priorities of the CMHBG and the SABG, with the focus of having at least one or two joint priorities across both plans. Laura reviewed the specific priorities of the CMHBG plan, which can be found on the DHS website at:

[https://dhs.iowa.gov/sites/default/files/MHBG\\_FY22-23\\_Assessment\\_and\\_Plan-final.pdf?102120211548](https://dhs.iowa.gov/sites/default/files/MHBG_FY22-23_Assessment_and_Plan-final.pdf?102120211548).

There was discussion regarding the section on workforce, specifically how grant dollars can be utilized, including peer support and access to training. There was also discussion regarding preparatory tracks for both high school students into the field of human services and one for therapists, as the amount of education for therapists versus other clinical professionals (registered nurses) is far greater and they make much less. There was also discussion regarding options to help with direct support staff, including education tracks and certificates at community colleges like the Certified Nurse Aid certification/track that can be found at many community colleges. There was also discussion regarding the mindset that mental health professionals from direct care staff to licensed mental health professionals who work in a community setting should settle for a lower wage than their respective counterparts in other fields.

### **Discussion on Commission's Annual Report**

Russell Wood led the Commission through a review of the 2021 Annual Report with a specific emphasis on the section on legislative priorities. It was noted that a few sections would be updated following today's meeting including the section on the State Resource Centers Barriers Report, as well as the presentation from the Iowa Center for School Mental Health that would be given in the joint meeting with the Mental Health Planning and Advisory Council. The Commission discussed small corrections and revisions to the report, and how they should be integrated. Revisions were made based on this discussion and will be brought back to the Commission for final review and vote at the December meeting.

### **Planning for Future Meetings**

Commission members discussed possible presentations for upcoming meetings in December and 2022. Possible presentations included a presentation from Brain Health Now, an update from the Advisory Council for Brain Injury on their five-year state plan as well as an update from the Medicaid Director. Specific agenda items for the December meeting were discussed including an administrative rules package related to SF619, and an update from the Children's Board, which is scheduled to meet in November.

### **Public Comment**

Susan Martin, Optima LifeServices questioned the timeline for when the Community Mental Health Center (CMHC) administrative rules would be brought to the MHDS Commission to be noticed. It was noted that DHS plans to bring the CMHC rules to the Commission at their January 2022 meeting.

Teresa Bornhoff commended the MHDS Commission for the thorough discussion on workforce and commented that there was an opinion letter in the DSM Register regarding long-term COVID and the vacancies in the workforce from the loss of these individuals in the workforce. She also noted that with presence of a new Managed Care Organization (MCO) in Iowa, that providers are facing a loss of workforce to the new jobs that will be offered. Teresa also noted that a single credentialing agency could help in lessening the paperwork obligations of licensed professional providers and in turn help in retaining staff.

### **Break**

The MHDS Commission broke for lunch at 12:00 p.m. and returned at 12:30 p.m. for the joint meeting with the Iowa Mental Health Planning and Advisory Council.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Wendy DePhillips.